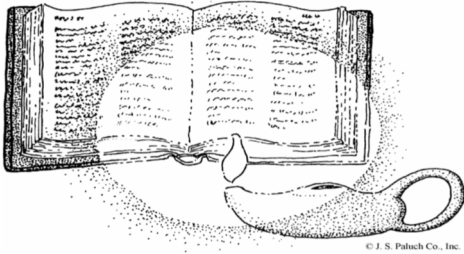


FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

February 22, 2015



Your ways, O LORD, make known to me; teach me your paths.
-Psalm 25:4

MASS INTENTIONS

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| MON., 7:00 | Feb. 23rd A.M. | Lenten Weekday Ann Chirdon r/o Mr & Mrs Ermin Chirdon & Family |
| TUES., 12:00 | Feb. 24th P.M. | Lenten Weekday William Hozner r/o Eleanor Hozner |
| WED., 7:00 | Feb. 25th A.M. | Lenten Weekday Parishioners |
| THURS., 12:00 | Feb. 26th P.M. | Lenten Weekday Members of the Capano Family r/o Henrietta Capano, Children & Grandchildren |
| FRI., 7:00 | Feb. 27th A.M. | Lenten Weekday Louis Pacifico r/o Roger & Michael Torre |
| SAT., 8:00 5:00 | Feb. 28th A.M. P.M. | Lenten Weekday John LaMicela r/o Tripoli Family Deceased Members of Peterson & Manicone Family r/o George & Carolyn Manicone |
| SUN., 8:00 10:00 11:30 1:30 | March 1st A.M. A.M. A.M. P.M. | Second Sunday of Lent Jack & Claire Donovan r/o Kevin & Alice Donovan Dorothy Giammarco r/o Daughter, Mary David Barber r/o Mom & Dad Comunidad Hispana Ninos del mundo |

MEDITATION GARDEN MEMORIAL BRICKS:

The next order of Memorial Bricks for our Meditation Garden and Remembrance Walkway will be processed on Friday, April 27. Memorial Bricks are a special way to honor and remember our loved ones or to memorialize a special occasion. Order forms are available around the church entranceways or at the parish office.

PRAY FOR THE SICK...In your charity please pray for the sick of our parish, the sick who remain in our intentions and those whose names are kept on our prayer list in the sacristy. Prayers are requested for the recently deceased: Susan Clark & Bernard J. Cossi.

TODAY'S READING'S:

First Reading — I will set my bow in the clouds to serve as a sign of the covenant between me and the earth (Genesis 9:8-15)

Psalms — Your ways O, Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant (Psalm 25)

Second Reading — The water of the flood prefigured baptism, which saves you now (1 Peter 3:18-22)

Gospel — Jesus was tempted by Satan, and the angels ministered to him (Mark 1:12-15)

WEDDING BANNERS

II Andrew Rossbach & Laura Zagari

INTERFAITH GATHERING...

Join us on Sunday, Feb. 22nd at 12:30 PM in the Parish Center Cafeteria for an Interfaith Gathering. Ethnic food will be shared as well as conversation with our Muslim neighbors. This is a wonderful opportunity to express and live out what we say when we pray for *Peace And Unity*. Please sign your name on clipboards located on tables around the church so we can have an estimate of how many people will be coming to share in this gathering. **All are welcome... bring a friend!** Call Sr. James for more information (732-609-1091).

A Lenten Reflection: *What to Give UP...*

Give up complaining—focus on gratitude.

Give up pessimism—become an optimist.

Give up sin—turn to virtue.

Give up worry—trust Divine Providence.

Give up discouragement—be full of hope.

Give up bitterness—turn to forgiveness.

Give up hatred—return good for evil.

Give up negativism—be positive.

Give up anger—be more patient.

Give up pettiness—become mature.

Give up gloom—enjoy the beauty all around.

Give up jealousy—pray for trust.

Give up gossiping—control your tongue.

Give up harsh judgments—think kindly.

Give up giving up—hang in there!



“After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God....” – Mark 1:14. Do you ever think about how difficult it must have been for Jesus to come into Galilee, knowing that John had just been arrested for teaching the same message that Jesus was proclaiming. It must have taken great love and trust for Jesus to do what the Father had sent Him here on earth to do. In the same way, following a life of stewardship takes great love and trust from us. We must be willing to surrender completely to God, trusting that God will always give us all that we need to fulfill His plan for us.

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|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| February 14—15..... | \$7,518.00 |
| Hispanic Mass..... | \$330.00 |
| Major Renovations..... | \$505.00 |
| Weekly Parish Expenses..... | \$19,246.00 |



As we continue our Lenten journey
Let us **Pray! Fast! Give Alms!**

WEEKDAY MASSES
during Lent will be celebrated at
7:00 A.M. (Monday, Wednesday & Friday)
12:00 noon (Tuesday & Thursday)

LENTEN NOVENA
will continue **Mondays at 7:00 P.M.** through March 30th

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION
First Friday– **7:00 A.M.-12:00 noon**
Third Friday- **7:00 A.M.-12:00 noon**

STATIONS OF THE CROSS
Friday at **7:00 P.M.**
Living Stations Friday, March 3 at 7:00 P.M.

Opportunities for the
Sacrament of Penance during Lent
each **Saturday: 3:30-4:15 P.M.**

LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE
Tuesday, March 10 at 7:00 P.M.

FOUNDATION of THE SISTERS of ST. JOSEPH

The Sisters of St. Joseph of Philadelphia trace their origins and spirit to six women, who came together in 1650 in war-ravaged LePuy, France with great desires for union with God, among themselves and with their neighbors. The French Revolution dispersed or imprisoned the flourishing community of sisters and five were guillotined, but Mother St. John Fontbonne was spared to refound the community and to send 6 sisters to St. Louis, MO in 1836 in response to the needs of the Church in America.

(Read more of our history next week...)

Our Parish Conference of St Vincent de Paul Society

is joining with other Conferences in the Diocese of Metuchen to provide First Communion dresses and suits to those families who cannot afford to purchase them. If you have a gently used dress or suit that you would like to donate, please contact the parish office or bring your donation by **March 15**.

Monetary donations are also acceptable. Thank you!



SAINT PATRICK'S DAY BAKE SALE:

The **OLMV Cultural Diversity Ministry** will sponsor our **Annual International Night** this year on **Saturday, May 30, 2015**. In anticipation of this special yearly parish event, the Ministry will sponsor its annual "*Saint Patrick's Day Bake Sale*" after all Masses on **Saturday, March 14 and Sunday, March 15**. The members of the *Cultural Diversity Ministry* thank you in advance for supporting this event that raises funds in support of *International Night*.

Fish, Inc. Food Collection. Thank you! Response to our monthly food collection was heartwarming! God bless you for your kindness and generosity to the needy in our area.
Next Food Collection – March 21-22.



A NOTE FROM FATHER PAT My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

"This is the time of fulfillment; the Kingdom of God is at hand!" Mark's Gospel presents Jesus beginning a public ministry by proclaiming the "Good News" to the people of Israel. For Mark, the time of fulfillment really is "now." Jesus is present among the people.

As we begin our Lenten journey this year we are invited to enter into this "time of fulfillment," into the very "Kingdom of God." How we are to do this is made very clear in today's gospel passage: "Repent and believe in the gospel." This is both a command of and an invitation by Jesus for us to begin our preparation--to begin our Lenten journey.

"Repent and believe in the gospel." Mark tells us in the Gospel that Jesus began to preach this special message after the Baptist's arrest and also after his time in the desert. Isn't this a clear direction for us as we begin to look into our hearts and souls, and to address the sinfulness that has crept into our lives during the year? We must confront our personal sinfulness which has damaged our relationship with God and so often with each other!

Lent is a time when persons of faith become more serious about our relationship with Jesus Christ. Traditionally we spend more time at prayer, we fast and discipline ourselves with regard to the pleasures of the flesh, and we become serious about our alms-giving and generosity toward others. The practices of prayer, fasting and alms-giving are actions that help us to resist temptation. Through these practices we show our regret for past sins. We begin to repair the separation from God that is the result of our sins. Prayer is simply listening to and responding to God's daily communication in our hearts. Fasting and self-denial help us get some control over our bad habits and self indulgence. Alms-giving and generosity are outward expression of our stewardship to the church, and even more, to the poor.

We are called, and we are even compelled, to spend time in prayer each and every day during Lent. Time spent at Mass, participation in the Stations of the Cross or our Monday Lenten Novena, participation in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, time before the Blessed Sacrament during Adoration and diligence to our own morning and evening prayers are just a few ways to "communicate" with God this Lenten season. We are called to pray with sincerity and humility.

We should give up some type of enjoyable food or activity as a powerful statement of fasting during Lent. We should also deny ourselves some sleep – get up once a week for early Mass during the week; deny ourselves of some "free" time and instead help out at a soup kitchen.

Lent is a time for generosity. **Operation Rice Bowl**, supporting our **Saint Joseph Basket**, or remembering the poor box and supporting **FISH** are beautiful forms of generosity before the Lord. Why not also consider donating time to our parish or to a local charity?

The Kingdom is now--let us meet the Lord in Lent through prayer, fasting and alms-giving.

**In peace and prayer,
Father Pat**

